

**We Claim:**

1           1.     A set of handcuffs comprising:  
2           a pair of openable bracelet sections, each of said bracelet sections  
3           including a locking mechanism for opening and closing said bracelet section;  
4           linkage means for tethering said bracelet sections together; and  
5           a restraint mechanism connected to said linkage means, said  
6           mechanism permitting a bracelet section to be rotated about a linkage axis  
7           extending through said linkage means and said bracelet sections so as to  
8           rotate said bracelet section to a predetermined angular position relative  
9           thereto.

1           2.     A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said restraint  
2           mechanism includes a ratchet gear that is rotatable about said linkage axis,  
3           said ratchet gear having a number of teeth disposed thereabout; and  
4           at least one ratchet pawl engageable with said teeth for preventing  
5           said ratchet gear from rotating in a first rotational direction upon  
6           engagement thereof.

1           3.     A mechanism as recited in Claim 2, wherein said restraint  
2           mechanism further includes two ratchet pawls, each of said ratchet pawls  
3           being disposed on opposite sides of said ratchet gear.

1           4.     A mechanism as recited in Claim 3, wherein each of said  
2           ratchet pawls are biased into contact with said ratchet gear.

1           5.     A mechanism as recited in Claim 4, wherein engagement of  
2           the biased ratchet pawls with the teeth of the ratchet gear restricts further  
3           movement of the gear in said first rotational direction about said linkage axis  
4           but permits further movement in an opposite second rotational direction.

1           6.     A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one  
2           bracelet section can be rotated and locked in at least 2 predetermined  
3           angular positions.

1           7.     A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one  
2     bracelet section can be rotated and locked in at least 8 predetermined  
3     angular positions.

1           8.     A mechanism as recited in Claim 1, wherein said linkage  
2     means includes means for permitting said bracelet sections to be folded  
3     onto one another for storage.

1           9.     A method of restraining an individual using a set of handcuffs,  
2     said method including the steps of:  
3             cuffing an individual using said handcuffs; and  
4             rotating one of the bracelet sections of said handcuffs to a  
5     predetermined angular position relative to the other of said bracelet sections  
6     in a first rotational direction about a linkage axis extending through said  
7     bracelet sections, said handcuffs including a restraint mechanism preventing  
8     said bracelet sections from being rotated to a previous angular position once  
9     said locking mechanism has been engaged.

1           10.    A method as recited in Claim 7, including the step of cuffing  
2     said individual behind said individual's back.

1           11.    A method as recited in Claim 7, including the step of cuffing  
2     said individual in front of said individual.

1           12.    A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said rotation step  
2     includes the step of rotating said arms relative to one another about the  
3     linkage axis.

1           13.    A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said rotation step  
2     includes the step of rotating said arms relative to the linkage axis.

1           14.    A method as recited in Claim 7, including the step of rotating  
2     said arms 90 degrees relative to said linkage axis.